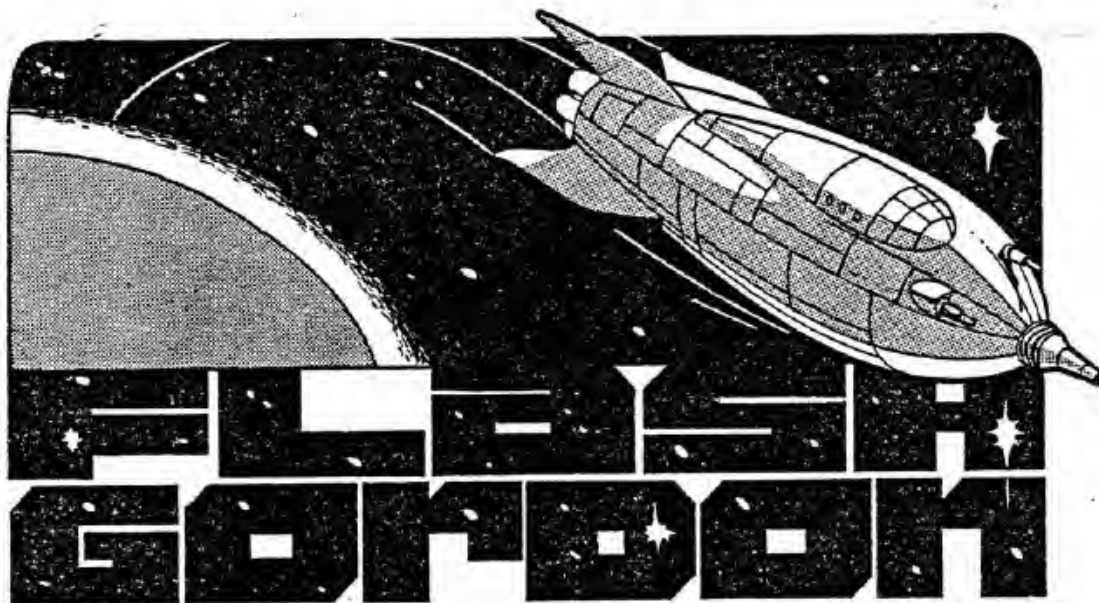


Written by  
TED PEDERSEN

**FILMATION**   
STUDIOS



CHAPTER FOURTEEN:

"THE DESERT HAWK!"

FL #52014

BY

TED PEDERSEN

APRIL 19, 1979

THE NEW ADVENTURES OF FLASH GORDON

CHAPTER FOURTEEN "THE DESERT HAWK"

FLASH GORDON

DALE ARDEN

DOCTOR HANS ZARKOV

DESIRA, QUEEN OF TROPICA

CAPTAIN BRAZNOR

GUNDAR, THE DESERT HAWK

BARIN

AURA

VULTAN

THUN

GUARD

DRIVER

Chapter Fourteen

"The Desert Hawk!"

PL # 52014

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. ARBORIA - DAY

MOVING IN through the giant treescape of the forest kingdom, while a leaf-flyer flits through FRAME, to focus on the treetop palace of Barin.

DISSOLVE THROUGH TO:

EXT. BARIN'S BALCONY - DAY

Prince Barin and Aura stand close together overlooking the beautiful forests and the golden Mongo sky.

BARIN

You will be happy here, Aura.

ANGLE - AURA

She turns her lovely face up towards Barin, the angry princess-daughter of Ming the Merciless replaced by a gentle woman in love.

AURA

I know that, Barin. My place  
is here, at your side, forever.

TWOSHOT - BARIN, AURA

He holds her close.

BARIN

As much as I dearly hate your  
father, Ming, for what he has  
done to our planet -- I love you  
Aura.

AURA

And I love you, my prince.

THUN (OS)  
(clearing his throat)  
Ah-hum . . .

ANOTHER ANGLE

Barin and Aura turn to see Thun and Vultan standing in the doorway.

VULTAN  
A thousand pardons for this --  
inappropriate interruption,  
Barin.

THUN  
We've got trouble.

BARIN

Gently detaches himself from Aura's arms and comes over to his two comrades.

BARIN  
Flash?

TWOSHOT - THUN, VULTAN

Vultan nods.

VULTAN  
They have not yet returned.

THUN  
Somethings happened!

ANOTHER ANGLE

Aura comes and joins the others.

AURA  
My father captured them?

THUN  
No. They are not in Ming's  
evil hands. My spies in Mingo  
City would know that.

BARIN

Concerned.

BARIN

There have been no reports of a rocket crashing anywhere along the route from Mingo City to Arboria.

ANOTHER ANGLE

AURA

Then where are they?

VULTAN

That, my princess, is the question we must answer -- and soon. For my hawk-sense tells me that Flash Gordon is in grave danger.

And, as we move in on Vultan's worried face . . .

WIPE TO:

INT. MYSTERIOUS CAVERN WORLD

Drawn like a magnet through the air into this strange underground world are Desira, Flash, Zarkov and Dale. It is as though the air around them were a river that pulls them ever onward toward its source.

DALE

What's happening to us?

ANGLE - ZARKOV

Trying to control his movements as he "swims" through the air high above the cavern floor.

ZARKOV

We have no weight. This is some amazing sort of suspended gravity.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Desira and Flash are drawn forward -- and up to the roof of the cavern -- where they "fall" against solid ground.

FLASH

Are you hurt?

Desira takes his hand and both are standing -- upside down -- on the roof of the cavern. (Note: while our people are in this "upside-down world" they will be seen in upside-down positions to maintain the mood.)

DESIRA  
No, but I'm all mixed up. We're  
stuck to the roof. What if we  
fell down?

ANOTHER ANGLE

As Zarkov and Dale join them on the cavern roof.

FLASH  
What's your scientific explanation,  
Doc?

ZARKOV  
There's no possible magnetism that  
could hold the human body like this  
-- except a change of gravity.

ANGLE - DALE

Reacting.

DALE  
You mean the gravitational pull is  
reversed in this cavern.

ANGLE - ZARKOV

Nods.

ZARKOV  
Exactly, Dale. As long as we're  
where we are, we can't fall.

ANGLE - FLASH

Starting to walk -- upside-down along the roof of the  
cavern.

FLASH  
But we can't stay here forever.  
Follow me -- and be careful. The  
reverse gravitational pull may  
end at any time.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The four begin to walk (upside-down) towards the far  
end of the cavern.

WIPE TO:

INT. CAVERN WORLD (UPSIDE-DOWN)

As the gravity pull upwards becomes greater -- it becomes more difficult for Desira, Dale, Zarkov and Flash to walk.

DALE

I can hardly walk.

ZARKOV

The gravity pull is getting stronger.  
It must be caused by some huge meteorite  
of super-density that is lodged in  
the ground above the cave roof.

ANGLE - FLASH

Going on ahead of the others.

FLASH

You wait here. I'll go on ahead  
and see what happens.

THREESHOT - ZARKOV, DALE, DESIRA

Relaxing for a moment on the roof of the cavern, their  
eyes following Flash as he goes on ahead.

POV

FLASH

Continuing on his upside-down way. He turns and calls  
back.

FLASH (CONT)

The gravity pull is getting weaker.

ANGLE - ZARKOV

ZARKOV

That means he's passed the center  
of the field.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Zarkov helps Desira and Dale get to their feet.

ANGLE - FLASH

He sees that the others are following him, then turns  
and rounds a corner.



ANGLE - DRAGON-BAT

A large serpent-like flying bat-creature zooms out of nowhere and flies straight at Flash.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Flash ducks just in time as the vicious bat-creature zooms past him. He turns to see --

PCV

DRAGON-BAT

Now flying in a deadly path straight for the others.

ANGLE - DESIRA, DALE, ZARKOV

Reacting with surprise and horror to the bat-creature that streaks toward them.

ANGLE - DRAGON-BAT

Its fang teeth gleaming, it flies toward CAMERA and fills the screen, as we

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

FL-# 52014

Chapter Fourteen

"The Desert Hawk!"

FL # 52014

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. CAVERN WORLD (UPSIDE-DOWN)

The dragon-bat creature streaks toward a helpless Dale, Desira and Zarkov.

ANGLE - FLASH

He breaks off a rock and prepares to throw.

ANGLE - DRAGON-BAT

It streaks down.

ANGLE - ZARKOV

He pushes the women out of the path -- and tries to ward off the huge creature -- but it knocked to the roof of the cave by the strength of the flying beast.

SHOT - FLASH

About to throw the rock.

FLASH

(to himself)

Gravity pull is too strong for a regular throw -- but I can use the gravity to my advantage.

Flash throws the rock upward and outward.

ANGLE - ROCK

It follows an arc toward the floor of the cavern world -- then is pulled back to the roof by the gravity -- and hits the bat-creature a hard blow.

ANOTHER ANGLE

As the dazed bat-creature flies off -- Zarkov helps Dale and Desira get moving.

ZARKOV

Quickly, before that thing returns  
-- and brings its friends.

ANGLE - FLASH

Up ahead of the others -- as he begins to float off the roof of the caverns and is pulled down towards the floor.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The others follow -- and all float down to the floor where their world is no longer upside-down.

ANGLE - ZARKOV

Looking back at where they came from.

ZARKOV (CONT)

An interesting place. Someday we must go back.

ANGLE - FLASH

FLASH

You can satisfy your scientific curiosity another day, Zarkov.  
(points o.s.)  
Right now, I think we've found our way out.

POV

CAVERN EXIT

Up ahead of them we can see daylight and the jungle landscape of Tropica through an opening in the cavern.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Flash leads the others toward the exit.

WIPE TO:

EXT. TROPICA - DAY

PANNING across the lush jungle of this beautiful land.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Flash, Dale, Desira and Zarkov walk through the lush jungle forests of Tropica. Desira pauses a moment to point a direction to Flash.

TWOSHOT - FLASH, DESIRA

DESIRA

We are approaching one of our outposts. We will be safe there.

Flash isn't so sure of that.

FLASH

Perhaps. But Braznor's no fool. He's planned on usurping your throne for some time, and must have turncoats planned within the royal council.

DESIRA

I find it hard to believe any of my trusted aides would betray me.

SHOT - FLASH

FLASH

Still, we need to be on our guard.

WIPE TO:

EXT. JUNGLE OUTPOST - DAY

A small, squat building at the edge of the jungle. In a nearby corral are several gryphs.

INT. OUTPOST - DAY

A young GUARD is lounging at his post, when he sees figures in the doorway and suddenly turns and becomes alert.

GUARD

Who are you?

ANGLE - DESIRA

Finding it hard to believe that her guard does not recognize her at once.

DESIRA  
I am Queen Desira. You will send  
for a jungle car to return me to  
the palace.

SHOT - GUARD

Reacting.

GUARD  
Ah, yes, my queen -- at once.

ANOTHER ANGLE

As the Guard exits into the other room, Desira turns  
to Flash with a smug smile.

DESIRA  
You see. This evening we will  
dine in splendor -- and that traitor  
Braznor will feed on dungeon leftovers.

FLASH  
Perhaps . . .

And Flash quietly moves toward the door.

INT. COMMUNICATIONS ROOM - DAY

The Guard is on the video-phone to Braznor, unaware that  
Flash is listening from the doorway.

GUARD  
It is someone claiming to be the  
queen, my lord Braznor.

BRAZNOR  
(on the screen)  
You did well in contacting me. She  
is an imposter. Arrest all of them  
and hold them until we arrive.

And the screen clicks off -- and the guard hears a noise  
behind him and turns.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Flash kicks the wheeled chair the guard is sitting on --  
and the chair (and guard) spins across the room -- and  
into an open closet. Flash quickly crosses and locks  
the guard in the closet.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Desira and Dale enter the room. Flash locks the closet door and turns to them.

FLASH

Braznor has seized your throne, Desira. He has proclaimed you dead, and I fear that most of your subjects will believe him -- just as this guard did.

Desira is enraged.

DESIRA

I'll see that lying traitor in chains before this is over!

DALE

Maybe so -- but at the moment, Braznor and his men will on their way here.

CUT TO:

EXT. OUTPOST - DAY

Flash, Dale and Desira run out the door -- to meet Zarkov who is riding a gryph and leading three more.

ANOTHER ANGLE

While Zarkov waits, the other three mount up and then they all ride off at a fast gallop.

WIPE TO:

EXT. TROPICA - DAY

An armored jungle-tank makes its way through the jungle.

INT. JUNGLE TANK

A guard at the controls, while Braznor stands behind him.

GUARD DRIVER

We'll be at the outpost in a few minutes, Lord Braznor.

BRAZNOR

Top speed, corporal. This time they will not escape me.

WIPE TO:

EXT. EDGE OF DESERT - DAY

Flash, Zarkov, Desira and Dale stop their gryph mounts at the top of a high rise -- and look out across a vast volcanic desert of sand, rock and molten lava beds where smoke and flames erupt like gysers.

DESIRA

This is the Desert of Fire.  
We cannot cross it, Flash.

TWOSHOT - FLASH, DESIRA

He turns and looks back down the mountainside they just climbed, then turns his attention back to Desira.

FLASH

I'm afraid we have no choice,  
Desira.

Flash points o.s. down the mountain.

POV

THE MOUNTAIN TRAIL

As Braznor's armored jungle car is coming up the mountain road in the distance.

FLASH (CONT) (OS)

Braznor has picked up our scent  
faster than I expected.

ANGLE - THE FOUR OF THEM

FLASH (CONT)

That desert is our only avenue of  
escape.

(to Zarkov)

Doc, you and the ladies go ahead.

SHOT - DALE

Anxious.

DALE

What about you?

SHOT - FLASH

His daring smile.

FLASH

I have a plan to delay Braznor.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Flash turns back in the direction from which they came. There is a moment, then Zarkov urges the two women to follow him -- and the trio starts off toward the Desert of Fire.

WIPE TO:

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY

The armored car is making slow, steady progress up the road when --

EXT. MOUNTAINSIDE - DAY

An avalanche of rocks pours down upon the road just ahead of the armored car.

INT. ARMORED CAR

The guard driver applies the brakes and Braznor flies forward and hits the control panel.

BRAZNOR

(startled)

What?

GUARD DRIVER

Avalanche!

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY

As a small mountain of rock now blocks the road ahead.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Braznor opens the hatch of the armored car and peers out. He looks upward.

EXT. MOUNTAIN TOP - DAY

Flash, a pole used for starting the avalanche in his hand, looks down at the stalled jungle car and the angry Braznor. Then he starts back for his gryph.

ANGLE - BRAZNOR

Furious.



BRAZNOR  
Blast a way through! I'll deliver  
Flash Gordon on a platter to the  
Emperor Ming for this!

ANOTHER ANGLE

As the ray cannons of the armored car begin to blast a  
hole through the rock blocking the road.

CUT TO:

ANGLE - FLASH

Galloping into the desert on his gryph.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT OF FIRE - DAY

Zarkov, Dale and Desira ride through a strange world  
of flame and rock and sand. Small gyser-like volcano  
cones rise all around them. Great rivers of lava steam  
through gigantic cracks in the earth.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Zarkov stops and the others do likewise.

ZARKOV  
We've come an hour. We'll stop  
and wait for Flash to join us.

SHOT - DALE

Worried as she studies the alien landscape.

DALE  
But this is such horrible, broken  
country. How will he ever find us?

WIPE TO:

EXT. DESERT - DAY

Flash stops his mount and looks out across the desert.  
He appears to be lost.

FLASH  
Zarkov promised to wait after an  
hour's ride. But there's no sign  
of them.

ANOTHER ANGLE

As Flash continues to scan the horizon, he suddenly sees something.

POV

DISTANT VOLCANIC CONE

With the smoke rising in a dot - dot - dash - dot format from the volcano, unlike the other steady smoke streams from other nearby volcanos.

FLASH (CONT) (OS)  
The smoke from that volcano cone --  
dot - dot - dash - dot -- its morse  
code for "f" --

ANGLE - FLASH

A smile on his face.

FLASH (CONT)  
Good ol' doc. Trust Zarkov to use  
his head.

And Flash starts off in the direction of the volcano cone at a fast pace.

WIPE TO:

EXT. VOLCANO CONE - DAY

While Zarkov uses a saddle blanket to produce the morse code signal from the volcano cone, Dale and Desira look on. Suddenly Dale sees someone coming.

DALE  
Zarkov! It worked! Flash has  
found us!

ANOTHER ANGLE

Flash rides up and dismounts. Dale rushes over and embraces him.

FLASH  
Miss me?

TWOSHOT - FLASH, DALE

Tight in each others arms.

DALE  
Of course not.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Desira watches the embracing pair for a moment, then quickly turns away to hide her feelings. Zarkov watches her and frowns.

WIPE TO:

EXT. DESERT BRIDGE - DAY

An arch of stone crossing a wide river of flame and boiling lava. Everywhere is steam and fire and the whole world seems bathed in a redish tint. Flash and the others cross the bridge on their gryphs.

TWOSHOT - FLASH, DALE

Riding side-by-side across the rock bridge.

DALE  
The heat. Will we ever be out of this terrible place?

FLASH  
I hope so, darling. At least Braznor can't follow us in his armored car.

ANGLE - ZARKOV, DESIRA

Riding somewhat ahead of the other two -- about three-quarters of the way across the rock bridge. Zarkov is looking about with his normal curiosity.

ZARKOV  
I've never seen a place like this.

DESIRA  
The Desert of Fire is a strange place, Doctor Zarkov. Only the desert riders are at home here.

ANGLE - ZARKOV

ZARKOV  
You mean there are people who actually live in this land?

ANGLE - DESIRA

She is glancing backward in Flash's direction.

DESIRA

(nods)

A savage folk. But loyal to the throne of Tropica. They will join us in defeating Braznor's evil plot.

Suddenly -- Desira stops as she sees something unspeakable.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Rising up along side of the rock bridge -- between Flash and Dale and the others is a gigantic Fire Dragon -- a hideous creation that lives in the very heart of the lava flow.

DESIRA (CONT) (OS)

Fire Dragon!

ANGLE - FLASH

He stops short and grabs Dale's mount by the reigns. Then shouts to Zarkov.

FLASH

Doc -- get away!

ANGLE - ZARKOV, DESIRA

As the fire dragon strikes -- they gallop off the rock bridge onto the safety of the land beyond.

ANGLE - FIRE DRAGON

Turning his attention to Flash and Dale -- and ROARING as he strikes.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Flash and Dale start to back their mounts around -- when the fire dragon strikes -- and breaks a huge portion of the rock bridge with his thrust.

ANGLE - DALE

Knocked from her gryph -- which rides off in fear -- by the impact and falls onto the rock bridge.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Flash leaps from his own gryph -- which also runs off -- and races to grab Dale before she slips into the flaming river of lava below.

ANGLE - FIRE DRAGON

Rising up for another attack.

ANGLE - FLASH, DALE

He grabs her and pulls up back onto the rock bridge -- just as the fire dragon lunges at them.

ANOTHER ANGLE

As Flash and Dale roll out of the way of the fire dragon's strike -- the dragon hits the rock bridge behind them -- and it begins to break.

ANOTHER ANGLE

With the section of the rock bridge broken in front of them and the dragon's thrust started a crack behind them -- Flash and Dale are trapped on a portion of the rock bridge that is about to tumble into the molten lava river.

ANGLE - ZARKOV, DESIRA

Their horrified reactions.

ANGLE - FIRE DRAGON

Ready to strike again.

ANGLE - FLASH, DALE

Trapped between the open section where the bridge used to be and the fire dragon on the other side -- and standing on a portion of the rock bridge that is beginning to break -- and will carry them into the flames below.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

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Chapter Fourteen

"The Desert Hawk!"

FL # 52014

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. ROCK BRIDGE - DESERT OF FLAME - DAY

With their rock bridge section about to break -- and the deadly fire dragon ready to strike -- Flash and Dale are backed against the open section of the rock bridge -- and stare into the molten lava river bubbling beneath.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Flash makes the only decision possible.

FLASH

We've got to jump!

Dale looks across the void.

DALE

It's nearly twenty feet across!

SHOT - FLASH

Reassuring.

FLASH

Mongo's gravity is less than Earth's. You can do it.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Dale looks at the teetering section of rock bridge -- at the menacing fire dragon -- at Flash.

DALE

Well -- what're we standing here for?  
See you on the other side.

ANGLE - DALE

She makes a run -- then leaps -- and clears the void -- landing safely on the other side.

ANGLE - FLASH

Just as he is about to make the jump -- the fire dragon strikes and knocks him backward.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Flash dodges another thrust of the fire dragon -- who is now between him and safety on the other side.

SHOT - DALE

Her horrified reaction to Flash's peril.

ANGLE - ZARKOV, DESIRA

They too can do nothing but watch and wait.

ANGLE - FLASH

He suddenly runs straight at the fire dragon --

ANOTHER ANGLE

Flash leaps onto the shoulder of the creature -- then, as if using the fire dragon as a stepping stone, jumps the void to the other side of the rock bridge -- where Dale waits.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Flash and Dale run down the rock bridge to join Zarkov and Desira.

ANGLE - FIRE DRAGON

Not giving up so easily -- the creature starts for them.

ANOTHER ANGLE

As the creature begins to crawl up on the land on the other side of the bridge and come after our four.

ANGLE - FIRE DRAGON

It ROARS up -- and suddenly -- is struck by a barrage of energy rays.

ANOTHER ANGLE

As the fire dragon escapes back into the lava river -- Flash and the others turn.

ANGLE - GUNDAR

Gundar -- the bearded desert hawk -- looking like a shiek out of a desert movie, stands in front of several desert men who hold futuristic ray rifles. He is looking at the two women.

GUNDAR

By my beard. Two jewels worthy of Ming's own crown. My desert never fails me.

ANGLE - DESIRA

Taking an immediate dislike to the man's manner.

DESIRA

Watch your tongue, desert man. I am Desira, rightful Queen of Tropica.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Flash steps up as Desira and Gundar eye one another.

FLASH

Gently, Desira. This fellow has just rescued us. At least he deserves our thanks.

ANGLE - GUNDAR

Making a deep bow before Desira.

GUNDAR

Permit me to introduce myself -- Gundar, hawk of the desert, defender of the weak, lord of the fire lands -- and -- your humble servant.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Flash extends his hand.

FLASH

I am Flash Gordon. From the planet Earth.



Gundar smiles.

GUNDAR

Ah, you are the famous outlaw which  
Ming the Merciless values so highly.

Gundar takes his hand.

GUNDAR (CONT)

It is a pleasure, since I bear our  
noble Emperor very little good will.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Gundar summons his men to bring gryphs for the four  
newcomers.

GUNDAR (CONT)

But later we will talk. Now you  
will join me in my humble quarters.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEARBY DUNE - DAY

As a hooded desert man watches from a distance through  
binoculars. Then reaches into his cloak and pulls out  
a small communicator and switches it on.

DESERT MAN

I have an important message for  
our Lord Braznor. Patch me through  
at once --

WIPE TO:

EXT. MOUNTAIN WALL - DAY

A sheer stone cliff extending up from the desert floor.  
Gundar, Flash, Desira, Dale, Zarkov and the desert men  
ride up on their gryphs.

ANGLE - DESERT MAN

He blows a single note upon a hunting horn.

ANGLE - MOUNTAIN WALL

As a great stone doorway slides open in the face of the  
mountain.

SHOT - GUNDAR

Smiling.

GUNDAR  
Welcome to Gundar's city!

ANOTHER ANGLE

As they all gallop inside -- and the stone door slides shut behind them.

CUT TO:

INT. GUNDAR'S CITY

A brilliant golden city of stone and marble hewed out of the inside of a giant cavern. It is like a fabled palace from an Arabian Nights fairy tale. Gundar and the others ride through.

TWOSHOT - DESIRA, GUNDAR

She is obviously impressed by all this.

DESIRA  
You live well -- for a bandit.

GUNDAR  
I do the best I can.

ANGLE - FLASH, DALE, ZARKOV

As they follow behind Gundar, looking at the city as they ride past.

DALE  
You think Gundar will help us?

FLASH  
He'd be a fool to try to fight Braznor's armored cars.

ZARKOV  
So you think he'll give us over to Braznor.

SHOT - FLASH

FLASH  
That would be the logical course.  
(then)  
But I have a feeling, that Gundar does not live by logic alone.

WIPE TO:

EXT. DESERT MOUNTAINS - DAY

In the distance a row of armored cars trudge along the roadway. As we PULL BACK we see one of Gundar's desert men on a hillside overlooking the menacing column. He takes out a hunting horn and gives forth with a WARNING SOUND.

EXT. ANOTHER PART OF THE MOUNTAINS - DAY

We HEAR the hunting horn echo off the cliffs.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The sound of the warning carries to the secret mountain wall entrance of Gundar.

CUT TO:

INT. DESERT CITY

Gundar is walking with Flash and Desira. Dale and Zarkov are in the b.g. A Messenger rushes up to Gundar, and hurriedly whispers in his ear, then exits.

ANGLE - GUNDAR

To Flash and Desira.

GUNDAR

It has not taken Braznor long to bring his army to my gates.

TWOSHOT - DESIRA, GUNDAR

DESIRA

Then decide quickly, Gundar. Do you stand with your queen -- or submit meekly to that traitor.

GUNDAR

A difficult decision.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Flash joins in the conversation.

FLASH

No man who lives in these deserts can be a coward.

Gundar smiles at that.

GUNDAR

I have been called many things,  
Earthman. Coward is not one of  
them.

(pause)

But Braznor has an army of armored  
cars. I have no such weapons at  
my disposal.

SHOT - DESIRA

DESIRA

Then you will turn us over to that  
fiend?

SHOT - GUNDAR

GUNDAR

To do so would be the wise course.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Gundar claps an arm around Flash's shoulder.

GUNDAR (CONT)

But Gundar is not always wise.  
Come, Flash Gordon -- we have  
a battle to prepare for.

And they begin to exit.

WIPE TO:

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY

An armored car rounds a bend -- then halts.

REVERSE ANGLE

The mountain wall that holds Gundar's desert city lies  
directly ahead in the distance.

ANGLE - ARMORED CAR

Braznor and one of his guards open the hatch and poke  
their heads up.

BRAZNOR

Either Gundar surrenders Desira.  
Or we take her -- and destroy his  
city in the bargain.

CUT TO:

EXT. ANOTHER PART OF THE MOUNTAIN - DAY

A tree moves aside, a tunnel entrance is revealed and we HEAR, then see a group of mounted desert men ride out on gryphs. Leading the column is Flash and Gundar.

ANGLE - FLASH, GUNDAR

FLASH

Our one chance is to capture Braznor, and force his men to surrender.

SHOT - GUNDAR

GUNDAR

I only hope the mountain gate into the city holds against the armored car lasers.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAIN WALL GATE - DAY

Two armored cars have pulled up and are directly their laser fire at the mountain gate that is the main entrance into Gundar's city.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Gundar watches from another armored car some distance away. He turns to his communications officer beside him.

BRAZNOR

Double the power of the lasers. I want that gate opened!

The communications officer nods and disappears into the armored car.

CUT TO:

INT. DESERT CITY - GATE

Zarkov, Desira, Dale and a desert man watch as the gate begins to bulge and buckle under the laser fire.

ZARKOV

It won't last much longer.  
Come with me.

---

DALE  
Where to?

ANOTHER ANGLE

Zarkov, Dale and Desira move away from the gate area.

ZARKOV  
To the communications room.  
Our situation is hopeless without  
help. Perhaps Desira can call  
upon others to join her in the  
battle against Braznor.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT MOUNTAINS - DAY

Desert riders on gryphs gallop down a hillside and lob  
EXPLOSIVES in front of the armored cars.

ANOTHER ANGLE

A bomb EXPLODES in front of an armored car and it slides  
off its tracks and crashes into a mountain side.

ANGLE - FLASH, GUNDAR

Watching the battle below from a hillside.

FLASH  
We can't stop those armored cars  
-- but we can derail them!

ANGLE - ARMORED CAR

It moves toward CAMERA and blasts with a deadly laser ray.

REVERSE ANGLE

As a roadway around a stalled armored car is cleared  
by blasting away part of the mountainside -- and the  
other armored car begins to pass.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Brave desert men on gryphs trying to halt the menacing  
armored cars -- but it is a one-sided battle.

ANGLE - DESERT MAN

A laser blast in front of his, knocks him off his gryph  
and directly in the path of an oncoming armored car.

SHOT - ARMORED CAR

Moving directly into CAMERA.

SHOT - DESERT MAN

His hopeless panic to avoid impending disaster.

ANOTHER ANGLE

At the last possible instant -- Flash rides in on his gryph, scoops up the desert man -- and rides off.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Flash stops and lets the desert man off, as Gundar rides up.

GUNDAR

You'd make a great desert rider,  
Flash Gordon.

SHOT - FLASH

He grins -- then turns to see --

POV

MOUNTAIN GATE

The rock door buckles and begins to break under the pounding from the armored car lasers.

FLASH (OS)

Braznor's broken through!

ANGLE - FLASH

He turns his mount and starts to ride off.

FLASH (CONT)

I've got to get back to Dale!

ANOTHER ANGLE

Flash rides off -- and Gundar rides after him.

CUT TO:

INT. DESERT CITY

The gate breaks open -- and two armored cars come through, spurring laser fire all around.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Desert men and women scatter as the laser fire from the armored tanks blasts huge rocks down and creates a shambles within the lovely desert city.

ANOTHER ANGLE

A third armored car rumbles through the gates. It stops and the hatch opens.

SHOT - BRAZNOR

He sticks his head up through the hatch -- and points a direction.

ANGLE - ARMORED CAR

It begins to rumble off in the direction that Braznor indicated.

CUT TO:

INT. DESERT COMMUNICATIONS ROOM

Desira at the video-phone, with only snow and static on the screen. Zarkov and Dale standing beside her. Dale turns to Zarkov.

DALE

What do you think, Doc?

ZARKOV

(shakes his head)

I don't know -- Braznor's done a good job of jamming the channels.

SFX: ARMORED CAR NOISE BEHIND THEM.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The wall is shattered by a laser blast -- and the armored car rumbles in and halts. Gundar and two of his guards -- armed with futuristic ray rifles -- jump out and move toward Zarkov, Dale and Desira.

ANGLE - BRAZNOR

He draws his futuristic ray pistol and fires it.

ANGLE - COMMUNICATIONS PANEL

A laser blast destroys it in a shower of sparks and fire.



ANOTHER ANGLE

Desira jumps away from the smoking communications panel and stands with Zarkov and Dale in facing Braznor, who holsters his ray pistol and smiles.

BRAZNOR

No messages please, Desira.

SHOT - DESIRA

Every inch a queen as she glares at Braznor.

DESIRA

You will not take Tropica by force,  
Braznor!

SHOT - BRAZNOR

Continuing to smile.

BRAZNOR

But, my lady, that is exactly what  
I have just done.

FLASH (OS)

Not quite!

ANOTHER ANGLE

Braznor and his two guards whirl about -- to see Flash standing in the doorway.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Before they can react -- Gundar jumps in through the opening in the wall -- and hurls a cloak over the two guards which knocks them off their feet and sends their ray rifles safely out of the way.

ANGLE - ZARKOV

He suddenly leaps up on the armored car -- and drops a smoke pellet through the open hatch -- which bursts in a cloud of blue smoke.

ZARKOV

This will put the men inside  
to sleep for a few hours.

ANGLE - GUNDAR

Smiles at Zarkov.

GUNDAR

The man of science is also a man  
of action. Earthmen never fail  
to amaze me with their unsuspected  
talents.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Desira strides up to Braznor.

DESIRA

Now -- you will surrender.

ANGLE - BRAZNOR

A bitter smile.

BRAZNOR

The game is not yet up, my lady.  
You may have me -- but within  
minutes, my armored cars will  
have your city -- and the desert  
folk will be at my mercy.

ANGLE - GUNDAR, FLASH

They exchange looks.

GUNDAR

He may be right.

CUT TO:

INT. DESERT CITY

Braznor's armored car continue to wreak havoc upon  
the defenseless city. People scurry to avoid the laser  
blasts that bring down walls and topple huge structures.

EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY

Armored cars again are more than a match for the valiant  
desert riders on their gryphs. It seems that indeed all  
is lost.

CUT TO:

SHOT - BRAZNOR

His evil smile, gloating at his soon-to-be victory.

BRAZNOR  
Face it, Earthman -- you have lost!

ANOTHER ANGLE

More of Braznor's armed guards rush in. Gundar is about to fight -- but Flash stops him.

FLASH  
(to Braznor)  
You've won this round.

BRAZNOR  
There will not be another round.  
The contest is decided.

ANGLE - DOORWAY

One of Braznor's guards rushes in.

GUARD  
(out of breath)  
My lord -- come quickly --

ANOTHER ANGLE

Braznor begins to follow the guard.

GUARD (CONT)  
-- strangers come -- from the sky!

ANGLE - FLASH, DALE

They look at one another. Could it be?

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY

TIGHT on armored car and two guards as they stare upward.  
Then we PAN UP to see --

POV

THE SKIES ABOVE

As an army of hawkmen -- carrying Barin's forest men archers in their arms -- moves through the desert sky -- toward the battle.

ANGLE - VULTAN

He looks down and raises his arm to signal the attack to begin.

VULTAN

In the name of the rebellion  
-- attack!

ANOTHER ANGLE

The hawkmen and archers dive.

ANGLE - DESERT RIDERS

They stop and look up.

ANGLE - ARMORED CARS

Quickly they begin to raise their laser weapons skyward.

ANGLE - HAWKMAN, ARCHER

Swooping down and firing an ice arrow.

ANGLE - ARMORED CAR

The ice arrow hits the armored car -- and it is coated white and frozen fast in an instant.

ANOTHER ANGLE

A hawkman-archer team avoids a laser blast -- and fires another ice arrow -- and freezes another armored car.

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT CITY - DAY

Braznor and his guards rush out. Flash, Gundar, Zarkov, Dale and Desira follow in the b.g.

ANGLE - DALE

Pointing upward.

DALE

It's Vultan -- and Barin's forest men!

SHOT - FLASH

FLASH

(grins)

With a little help from our friends,  
we'll win this day yet!

ANGLE - FLASH

He leaps forward, then throws himself sideways in an imitation of a bowling ball.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Flash hits the group of guards in the legs and bowls them over.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Gundar and Zarkov rush over and scoop up the weapons.

CUT TO:

EXT. MOUNTAIN - DAY

A hawkman and archer land on an armored car.

ANOTHER ANGLE

The hawkman rips open the hatch and the archer fires in a smoke arrow.

CUT TO:

ANGLE - DESERT MAN, ARMORED CAR

The desert man is being forced off a cliff by the out-of-control armored car.

ANGLE - DESERT MAN

He slips and falls over the edge.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Hawkman swoops down and grabs the falling desert man and flies him to safety.

CUT TO:

SHOT - BRAZNOR

He realizes he is defeated. He turns.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Braznor sees him guards on the ground. Flash and the others in control. Braznor begins to run.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Braznor begins to escape -- but his path is suddenly blocked by a flurry of long arrows -- which fall on all sides and create an instant cage, from which he cannot escape.

ANGLE - FLASH

He looks up in the direction the arrows came from.

POV

BARIN

Standing on a ledge above, with several of his forest men archers around him. He smiles down at Flash.

BARIN

Can't stay out of trouble, can you, Earthman?

SHOT - FLASH

Grins back.

FLASH

We were doing fine.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Dale gives Flash a nudge in the ribs.

FLASH (CONT)

But thank's for the assist.

ANGLE - GATE

As Thun, the lionman, walks up -- holding two of Braznor's guards by the back of their shirts. He drops them in a heap and crosses over to Flash and the others.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Vultan flies down and Barin joins them. Thun, Flash and Desira in a group, with Gundar, Zarkov and Dale in the b.g.

BARIN

You haven't introduced me to this lovely new friend of yours.

TWOSHOT - VULTAN, BARIN

Vultan pushes Barin out of the way. .

VULTAN  
Careful, Barin. The Princess Aura  
has a jealous streak a mile wide.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Vultan bows to Desira and takes her hand and kisses it.

VULTAN (CONT)  
I am Vultan, king of the hawkmen,  
at your service.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Flash steps in and completes the introductions.

FLASH  
And this is Barin, Prince of Arboria.  
Thun, king of the lionmen.

ANGLE - THUN

THUN  
United in our rebellion against  
the tyrant Ming.

ANGLE - DESIRA

DESIRA  
Now that my own kingdom of Tropica  
is restored to me -- count on my  
help in that battle.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Gundar steps in.

GUNDAR  
And mine! My desert men are in  
your service Flash Gordon.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Dale looks at Flash.

DALE  
Well, Flash?

SHOT - FLASH

He thinks a moment, then --

FLASH

For too long we've been at the  
mercy of Ming and his soldiers.

ANOTHER ANGLE

As we begin to PULL BACK and up from this scene where  
the victors have gathered -- Flash, Dale, Zarkov, Desira,  
Thun, Barin, Vultan, Gundar.

FLASH (CONT)

Now is the hour when we must bring  
the fight to the Emperor's doorstep.  
No more do we run. Now we are united  
-- all of Mongo -- and together we  
will end his tyrannical grip on this  
planet.

THUN

Beware Ming -- the free men and women  
of Mongo are coming for you!

And, as we continue to pull up and away, we

FADE OUT.

END OF CHAPTER FOURTEEN

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